of any monopoly that only restricts competition. It also believes that there must be a direct link between privatization and social needs—like, for example, the use of privatization revenues for designated social sector schemes. Public sector companies and nationalized banks will be encouraged to enter the capital market to raise resources and offer new investment avenues to retail investors.

Government has decided, in principle, to list profitable CPSEs each with a Net Worth in excess of Rs. 200 crore on domestic stock exchanges and to selectively sell small portions of equity in listed, profitable CPSEs (other than the navratnas). Government has decided to disinvest 5% out of its equity shareholding of 100 per cent in Power Finance Corporation Ltd. (PFC) and also to disinvest 15% out of its equity shareholding of 98.384% in National Mineral Development Corporation Ltd. (NMDC) through 'Offer for Sale' in the domestic market. The disinvestment by Government in PFC would be through piggy-back on the public issue being done by PFC.

(b) and (c) Do not arise in view of (a) above.

Loan facilities to SSIs

3251. SKRI ABU ASIM AZMI: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have taken any action to grant interest or problem free loans from the banks to the small scale industries;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether National Manufacturing Competitive Council has recommended to Government for loan facilities to the small scale industries; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and the decision taken by Government in this regard? •

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL): (a) and (b) A "Policy Package on Stepping up credit to SME sector" has been announced in the Parliament on August 10,2005 which *inter alia* includes fixing self targets for funding Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs) to achieve a minimum 20% year

on year growth in credit to SMEs. The salient features of the Policy Package are fixing of self-targets for financing to SME sector by banks, measures to rationalize the cost of loans, increase the outreach of formal credit, cluster based approach for financing and debt restructuring mechanism and a One Time Settlement (OTS) Scheme for SME sector. Reserve Bank of India has issued instructions in this regard advising all banks to implement the policy measures.

(c) and (d) The National Manufacturing Competitiveness Council in the National Strategy for Manufacturing has made various recommendations for extending credit to SSIs which include ensuring better credit delivery to the SSI sector by RBI, a target role for SIDBI in direct lending to SSI sector, a separate law for small enterprises including a chapter on provision to credit to the SSIs, steps to encourage credit rating of small enterprises, etc. Besides the above Policy Package, **a** Small and Medium Enterprises Rating Agency for encouraging credit rating of small enterprises has been launched.

Report on Security Related Expenditure by Punjab

3252. SHRIMATI SUKHBUNS KAUR: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Working Group constituted to determine the security related expenditure incurred by the State Government of Punjab during the period of militancy in the State, for the purpose of granting debt relief to that State, has submitted its report;

(b) if so, the main recornmendations made therein and the amount of outstanding debts incurred by that State on this account indicating the steps taken and being taken in the light of their report; and

(c) if not, what progress has so far been made by the Working Group and by when the report of the Group is expected?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL): (a) to (c) Working Group constituted to determine the security related expenditure incurred by the State Government of Punjab during the period of Militancy has submitted the report which is under consideration of Govt, of India.